A. W. M.'s Letter.

SAMUEL MAY, JR.

"LIBERATOR" OFFICE,

BOSTON,

MASS.

NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

THE accomplishment of the Great Work of Emancipation in the United States directs our minds to the duty of some fit public recognition of the man who must in all future time be regarded as its visible leader.

William Lloyd Garrison, then in the twenty-sixth year of his age, established the "Liberator" newspaper in 1831; and thenceforward devoted his abilities and his career to the promotion of "immediate and unconditional emancipation." After the lapse of thirty-five years of the most exacting labor, of controversy, peril, and misconception, he has been permitted to see the object gained, to which he, at first almost alone, consecrated his life. The generation which immediately preceded ours, regarded him only as a wild enthusiast, a fanatic, or a public enemy. The present generation sees in him the bold and honest reformer, the man of original, self-poised, heroic will, inspired by a vision of universal justice, made actual in the practice of nations; — who, daring to attack without reserve the worst and most powerful oppression of his country and his time, has outlived the Giant Wrong he assailed, and has triumphed over the sophistries by which it was maintained.

Beginning his great career in the outward circumstances of humble life, educated in the free schools of New England, and in the trade of a journeyman printer, — his labors have been so exclusive in their direction to the single aim of the overthrow of American Slavery, and so absorbing and severe, that with abilities capable of winning fortune as well as reputation, he has come to see the fulfilment of his task, and to find himself, while no longer vigorous and young, under the domestic responsibilities that belong to his years, but with no worldly gain, no material earnings to reward his exertions, or to alleviate the cares and the wants of age.

We ask simply to arrest the attention of the American people to the obligations they owe to this American.

Although he contended for the rights of human nature, — and thus, in a degree, made mankind his constituency — yet *here* was the field of his enterprise, and *ours* was the land to be immediately redeemed.

He was the attaché of no private interest, he was neither the hanger on, nor the representative of any sect or party; with no hope of worldly profit to be reaped from the measures and the principles he urged, he was the conspicuous, the acknowledged, the prophetic leader of the movement in behalf of the American Slave — now consummated by the Edict of Universal Emancipation.

It cannot mar the dignity of his position as a man of honest, intellectual, and moral independence, to receive a substantial testimonial of the good-will and grateful respect of his friends and countrymen; nor can it be more than his just reward, nor more than an honorable recognition on the part of the uncounted multitudes of all parties and sections, who must confess themselves to have become his debtors — to give to him such a testimonial, and to make it substantial.

We, the undersigned, do therefore invite all people who rejoice in the destruction of Slavery, in the re-establishment of the Union on the basis of Universal Freedom, who appreciate his past service in the cause of Liberty, and the dignity and judgment with which he has accepted and interpreted the more recent events of public history, — to unite with us in presenting a national testimonial, of not less than *Fifty Thousand Dollars*, to our fellow countryman — William Lloyd Garrison.